

News, Views & Entertainment

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More of the best of the Valley

July 20, 2017

\$1million sidewalk project for Ansonia Hilltop unveiled

By Ralph Villers

ANSONIA - Nearly a mile long sidewalk project was unveiled at Emmett O'Brien Technical High School on Tuesday.

About 30 people attended a Public Information Meeting regarding the "Pedestrian Enhancement Project" for Prindle Avenue and Pulaski Highway.

Artists renderings were posted on easels for meeting attendees to view the scope of the project. A book of engineering drawings of the actual plans was on a table should consultations with the designers were requested.

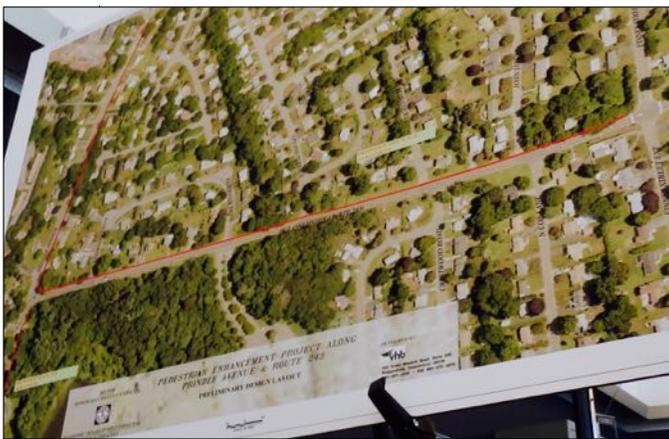
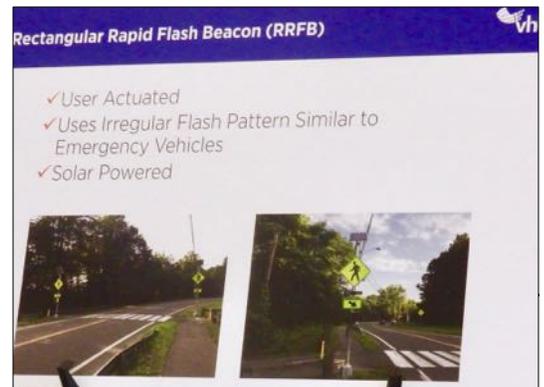
The meeting opened up with an overview of the project by Bill Anderson, Senior Project Manager at VHB in Wethersfield, the project design consultants.



The total project sidewalk encompasses 5,000 linear feet of sidewalks built to ADA design standards, border areas between the sidewalks and streets and landscape restoration. Each sidewalk will be 5 feet wide as per Federal Highway Administration (**FHWA**) specifications for **Walkways, Sidewalks, and Public Spaces**. The curb cuts at each intersection will be fully handicap accessible and will have **ADA detectable warning tiles** as part of the cut.

Instead of a traffic light at the entrance, there will be pushbutton actuated Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (**RRFB**) signs with flashing lights for pedestrian crossings.

The sidewalk will continue up Prindle from the intersection with Pulaski Highway up to just before Emmett O'Brien Technical High School.



A question and answer session was held with Anderson, Ansonia Mayor David S. Cassetti and Sheila O'Malley, the city's economic development director.

One resident asked why there is not a traffic light at the high school entrance. O'Malley said that the project is for pedestrian, not vehicular, traffic, hence the flashing signs. Anderson added that there will also be flashing signs 300 feet before the crosswalk and both signs will light up when the button is pushed.

Another question was why the sidewalk on Prindle Avenue ends at the softball field.

O'Malley said, "On the first go round, Ansonia requested \$800,000" through the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (COG) for the Pulaski Highway and Prindle Avenue sidewalks

She continued, "The city of Ansonia is very fortunate to get \$800,000 on the first go round. However, we went back and said that the kids want to safely get to the softball field - so we asked to expand the project. Every city and town in the COG had to vote on giving their share of the pedestrian enhancement funding to Ansonia and voted to do so. So the value of the project went up to about \$1 million."

The final question was asked about how long will this project take? Anderson replied "To be realistic, to get the final plans will take 2-1/2 months. So you are going to fall where typically you get the best (quoted) pricing, then get the plans to the contractor. We see the end date as being Summer 2018."



A sultry day at Osbornedale State Park in Derby



Summer afternoon dilemma: Follow him or take a swim?



Should we jump in?

Photos by Patricia Villers

Step up for the Brave Stadium Stair Climb Challenge

The 3rd annual Step Up for the Brave - Stadium Stair Climb is being held Sept. 23 at The Ballpark at Harbor Yard, 500 Main Street Bridgeport

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., the climb is scheduled for 9:00 - 10:30 and the awards presentation will be at 11:00 a.m.

This stair climb is a unique, vertical challenge where participants are encouraged to conquer climbing a target number of stairs in honor of our military.

Proceeds from the Stadium Stair Climb Challenge will support Homes for the Brave's mission to help homeless individuals, most of whom are Veterans, return to productive and meaningful lives.

There are several ways you can support the event:

- **Be a Team Captain:** Start a team and recruit climbers and virtual climbers to help raise funds for your team.
- **Participate as an Individual Climber:** Challenge yourself to conquer a target number of stairs.
- **Participate as a Virtual Climber:** Create a fundraising page or team to help support our important cause.
- **Be a Sponsor:** Companies and individuals can sponsor the event or a flight of stairs in honor or memory of a personal hero or loved one. Levels range from \$100 up to \$3,500.

Registration is going on now through. Early Bird registration through August 4th for \$25, the general registration is \$35. Student registration is \$20 - a valid Student ID required upon check in.

The price includes the climb challenge, a T-shirt and light food buffet.

Event info:

- One time around the closed climb course is 1,000 stairs.
- Participants have 1.5 hours to complete their climbing goal.
- Participants must be 8 years and older to climb.
- \$20 Student Climb rate available - valid Student ID required.
- Free parking is available in the back lot behind the ballpark.

Contact info@homesforthebrave.org with any questions



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